

Jade Aaron, Caroline Baker, Alex Brennan, Katie Coy, Marquin McMath, Lyn Reeve, Ashley Jones, Jennifer Ross, Katherine Royal, and Lizzy Sprague.

Coaching staff: Ben Ladd—head coach, Carol Schretter, and Phillip Schretter.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 2215

#### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION VERSUS TAX BREAKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBURN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to continue to call on this Congress to pass a real school construction legislation without delay, before our adjournment for the year. We have missed opportunities after opportunities to stop our partisan wrangling and pass a meaningful bill and reach the priorities that we need to reach with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as a Congressman from North Carolina's Second Congressional District, I represent an area of the country that has undergone some tremendous growth over the last several years. In communities throughout my district and across this country, our schools are bursting at the seams. Our local communities are struggling to provide resources to build new schools and to repair old ones and get children out of trailers and just fix up old, run-down buildings.

For nearly 4 years now, I have worked with my colleagues in the House on both sides of the political aisle to provide leadership on this important issue and pass a common sense bill that will help our local schools deal with this critical problem. We have come together to support H.R. 4094, the Rangel-Johnson-Etheridge bill that is sponsored by the Republican Congresswoman from Connecticut and my friend from New York. This important bill will provide \$25 billion in school construction bonds for our local communities to build schools for our children. It really provides national leadership on this issue that is critical to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, a clear majority of the Members of this House have supported H.R. 4094. 228 Members, Democrats and Republicans alike, have signed on as cosponsors. The House will pass this bill if we can only get a chance to vote on it. The President has stated that he will sign this important legislation the minute it reaches his desk. We have an opportunity to provide real leadership

and pass this measure to help provide educational opportunities for our children.

But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership of this House has chosen the path of confrontation and gridlock over the opportunity for consensus and progress. Rather than working together to produce a common sense solution to the need for school construction, the Republican leadership brought to the floor today a bill that was a sham of a school construction measure. Instead of fully funding the cost-effective Rangel-Johnson bill, the Republican leadership's bill would shift funds to much less effective arbitrage relief and private activity bonds. The arbitrage proposal would provide schools with only \$24 per \$1,000 in bonds compared with \$624 per \$1,000 in bonds in the Rangel-Johnson bill. In addition, because schools would have to delay construction for at least 2 years to receive any benefits, areas with the most urgent need would not be able to build the buildings that they need. The private activity bonds benefit only those schools available to find a for-profit company willing to pay up-front construction costs. Neither arbitrage nor private activity bonds target assistance to the schools that so badly need it today.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of this House have an obligation, a solemn responsibility in my opinion to work together to craft common sense solutions to the problems facing America's schools. But, rather, we do not work hard to meet the responsibility that is before us. The Republican leadership has chosen to pass a sham proposal, a bill that is truly going to be vetoed. They knew it was going to be vetoed when it passed today. The Republican tax bill contains many provisions that I supported, but the sad fact is the Republican leadership chose to include many good provisions in a fundamentally flawed bill.

In addition, the leadership today pushed through an appropriations bill that provides \$687 million in grants to States to build prisons. Mr. Speaker, I supported that provision because we probably need to build some, but to me it is the wrong priority to pass prisons before we build schools.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I remain an optimist. We still have time to pass a real school construction bill before this Congress adjourns and I urge the Republican leadership to do so.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN KASICH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, we are hopefully coming to the end of our legislative session for the year and for the 106th Congress. That will be a happy time for a lot of people because it means we get to go home to our families, to our districts for the election, but there are some people who are not going to be returning, and the subject of my special order involves one of my colleagues and very good friends who will no longer be a Member of this body after this session closes. He shares a distinction with a number of Members who came to the United States Congress to work on deficit issues, on budget issues. He came from the great State of Ohio with a mission, and that was even if he was the only one standing in the well to balance the budget all by himself, he was going to get that job done. That man's name was JOHN KASICH.

Tonight, the subject of this special order is to pay tribute to JOHN KASICH, the representative from Ohio, as well as the distinguished Budget chairman for the last 6 years.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order involving Chairman JOHN KASICH.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Members who would have liked to have been here tonight to express their gratitude, maybe even a few remembrances, a couple of stories, but there just is not time and, of course, with this late hour it probably seems even less appropriate. It is something that ought to be done in, quote-unquote, prime time for someone as important as JOHN KASICH, but let me just give a couple of quick points and then I will conclude.

Number one, there are going to be a lot of people including the very distinguished Speaker pro tem who is sitting here today who will also share the distinction of no longer being here after this session. We bid him at the end of this session farewell. He has been a true champion on many of the issues that JOHN KASICH has been fighting for. But there will be a lot of Members, Mr. Speaker, a lot of politicians, a lot of candidates in the future that say I balanced the budget, or I was there to help get it done, but there will be one person who will probably, above all other people, and my guess is that that will be shared in a bipartisan way from both sides of the aisle, who stood just a little bit taller than the rest of the politicians and Representatives and Senators and Presidents, and that is JOHN KASICH.

He wrote his first budget in 1989. Now, you have got to remember back to what this was like. Here he is a junior Member of Congress coming in and having the audacity to say, I can write my own budget. This is something that was reserved for the President of the United States, for the majority party only, maybe for the Budget Committee but certainly not a junior member to come in and say, "I can do it better than you can." And almost like the movie "Dave" that maybe some Members have seen, he went through line item by line item and outlined exactly what that budget ought to look like.

Well, I was not here in 1989. Maybe I would have helped support him. My guess is the Speaker pro tem would have as well. He only got about 30 votes for his first budget. But from that seed grew a very mighty vision for the future. He took that seed and not only became a leader, took over the Budget Committee and then with the rest of us in 1995, 1996 and 1997 worked as hard as he could to bring that vision to a reality. My daughter Sarah and my son Mark are the recipients of his leadership in a number of different ways but probably most importantly because as we have balanced the budget, we have been able to now reduce by putting 90 percent of that surplus toward the national debt, we are going to be able to let them know that by the end of this year we have reduced the national debt by \$354 billion.

Can we do better? You bet we can. We are going to continue that work if we have the honor and the ability in the majority to go on next year, and there is more work we need to do, even though JOHN KASICH will not be here. But he has laid a foundation that is second to none. The Members of the Budget Committee as well as the Members of the Ohio delegation led by Ralph Regula, the dean of the delegation, wish to express our gratitude on behalf of all of us in Congress for the great leadership that JOHN KASICH has provided. He will go on with his two twin daughters and his wife Karen to bigger and better things, we have no doubt. As the old adage around here goes that only Members seem know, that as soon as you are a former Member, you are forgotten. That may be true for some, but my guess is that JOHN KASICH's legacy will ring true in this House of Representatives for many years to come. I count him as one of my friends. I count him as a mentor. He will be sorely missed. We respect his tenure.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my accolades for my Ohio colleague, JOHN KASICH. JOHN has been a member of the Ohio delegation of this body for the past 18 years. As dean of the Ohio delegation, I have worked with JOHN on numerous issues of importance to the State of Ohio. He always brought his determination to help people with his unflinching enthusiasm to the task at hand.

Throughout this time he has played an important role in leading this nation toward sound budgeting and fiscal responsibility. When JOHN assumed the chairmanship of the Budget Committee, he was determined to reduce the size, scope and intrusiveness of government in people's lives. To do this required skillful use of the reconciliation feature of the Budget Act.

As JOHN's fellow Budget Committee members have attested, he brought a single-mindedness of purpose of the job. His was not a reactive approach, but proactive one, annually proposing his own budget alternatives to those of the White House. While he presided over the Committee, our budgets have gone from perennial deficits to annual surpluses.

His steadfast leadership of the House Budget Committee has educated many of our constituents across the country on the budget process and its effects on us all. We owe a great debt of appreciation to JOHN for his dedication to this effort and for the positive outcome which has resulted. The impacts a balanced federal budget have on our economy and our ability to prosper individually and as a nation are truly the result of this dedication.

And JOHN has accomplished this with his own special flair. Who else could negotiate budget numbers with the White House one day and start a book signing tour the next, run for President, and hang out with rock stars.

Now JOHN embarks on a new phase of his life. I am certain that it will be as rewarding as his congressional career has been. As a husband and father of twins, JOHN will have many important projects of both a personal and professional nature.

JOHN, as you leave this institution for other endeavors, we wish much success and happiness to you, your wife Karen, and your beautiful twin daughters, Reece and Emma.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BOB WEYGAND ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to talk just a few minutes about BOB WEYGAND, a good friend of mine here in the House and a great Representative for the Second District of Rhode Island. I know that many of my colleagues share my sadness that he will be leaving the House of Representatives. As my colleagues know, he is running for the United States Senate.

The gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) is no stranger to public service. He began his public service in 1978 when he became a member of the East Providence Planning Board and became its chairman in 1979. In 1984 he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, representing at that time District 84. He was also named the Legislator of the Year in 1988. BOB stayed in the General Assembly until 1993, serving on a number of committees, including the House Cor-

porations Committee on which he was the chairman.

It was during his time as a State representative that BOB helped to write Rhode Island's land use laws which have been recognized nationally as state of the art with respect to land planning and the most progressive and forward thinking types of laws in this country.

BOB was elected lieutenant governor of Rhode Island in 1992 and he was the chairman of the Long Term Coordination Council and he authored legislation to protect the elderly and to improve access for long-term health care.

The gentleman from Rhode Island was elected to the U.S. House, to this House, in 1996. He came in on January 7, 1997, the same day that I came to this House Chamber. We soon became good friends. As a Member of the Congress, BOB was chosen as our freshman president his first year here. The gentleman from Rhode Island serves on the House Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

He is a landscape architect by trade. That is why he has worked so hard as one of the cochairman of the Livable Communities Caucus that we have here in the House. He has brought to Congress a new way to look at our communities and our physical environment, and I have had the opportunity to work with him over and over again in the caucus where we look at the land use planning of many of our cities.

Those who know BOB well know he is a man of honesty and integrity, and I am proud to call him my friend.

□ 2230

These qualities are probably best exemplified in his role in uncovering an extensive corruption operation in the city of Pawtucket in 1991. You see *Bob* was a landscape architect, and he had won a contract for that city to redo a general open space, a park, if you will, and one of the things that happened is when he went in to see the mayor to work on this project, the mayor had a little scheme of how he might divide up the funds.

Now, most of us having won a project like that might turn away and say to the mayor, thank you very much, I do not really need this after all, let me just forget I have ever met you, but not BOB. BOB actually picked up the phone that night and called the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

BOB subsequently worked with them in conducting an elaborate undercover operation. Mr. Speaker, he wore a wire for many months putting his family, his wife, Fran, and their three children at great danger, but he felt it was important that he get the information. And because of what he did, putting away corrupt public officials in Rhode Island, BOB won the FBI's Award for Exceptional Public Service, the first